



## The Collins Dispatch

Winner of the Carl F. Bessent Newsletter Award 2011 & 2013

January 2021

### DATES TO REMEMBER

The Chapter meeting starts at 7PM the third Tuesday every month. We are currently meeting via Zoom video conferencing.

- Jan. 19 - Chapter Meeting
- Feb. 16 – Chapter Meeting
- March 16 – Chapter Meeting
- April 20 – Chapter Meeting
- May 18 – Chapter Meeting

Additional events and activities, see the GA SAR website [www.gasocietyar.org](http://www.gasocietyar.org)



### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Dates to Remember	1
Old Allatoona Cemetery	1
New President's Message	2
Outgoing Pres. Message	3
2020 JROTC Recognition	6
Wreaths Across America	8
Article: US Flag	9
Patriot Ancestor Spotlight	10

### Work Day at the Old Allatoona Cemetery

Our chapter held a successful work day at the Old Allatoona Cemetery in West Cobb County on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

There were many broken tree limbs in the cemetery due to recent storms so we piled the limbs on a blue tarp and hauled the debris to the roadside for pick up by Cobb County. See additional photos and cemetery history on page 3.

## Officers and Committees

**President** – Stallings Howell

**Immediate Past-President** – Gary Hoyt

**Vice President** – Bruce Wampler

**Secretary** - Michael Fletcher

**Treasurer** - Wayne L. Brown

**Registrar** – William Edelen

**Chancellor** - Joseph L. Vancura, Jr.

**Chaplain** - Lloyd Blackwell

**Sergeant-at-Arms** - Rodney Pritchett

**Historian** - Earl Cagle Sr.

**Editor** – Michael Reither

**Americanism/Fire/Law/EMS** - Wayne L. Brown

**Flags and Knight Essay** - Terry A. Gibbs

**Cemetery** – Michael Reither

**JROTC** - Earl Cagle Sr.

**Eagle Scouts / Education** - Bill Coffeen

**Veterans** - Gary Hoyt / Patrick Reese

**DAR Liaison** - Earl Cagle Sr.

**Membership / Welcome** - Bill Coffeen & Lee Hulsey

**Chapter Directory** - Gary J. Hoyt

## President's Message

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Dear Compatriots,

This past year has been a difficult one and has changed our lives in a number of ways. Still, we have been blessed and we are ending the year with many accomplishments and much for which to be thankful. Our chapter has increased in membership and our Zoom meetings have worked very well. All of our thanks go to President Gary Hoyt, the Officers, and Committee Chairs who served during the past year. We look forward to a brighter future in 2021 to increase our membership and carry out our goal of serving our community, state, and nation. We hope to engage more of our members in volunteering to serve our Chapter by getting involved in Chapter activities. Our Chapter also looks forward to helping plan and working with State and National Officers to hold the 2022 NSSAR Congress in Savannah, Georgia.

We have an excellent slate of newly elected Officers to meet these goals. I look forward to working with each of you this next year.

Patriotically yours,

*E. Stallings Howell, President*



## Outgoing President's Message

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Dear Compatriots

Looking back to my installation as the 2020 Captain John Collins Chapter President, a Yogi Berra quote comes to mind: "It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future." The unexpected death of our friend and Compatriot Peter Ashton Lyon in late 2019 made it necessary to drop everything in order to create a viable Chapter Membership Roster and produce an updated Chapter Directory. Many thanks to Michael Fletcher and Earl Cagle for the tremendous amount of work they contributed to this project early in the year. Now, as we near the end of my term in office, I am proud of all we did to keep Chapter life moving forward during a crippling and tragic pandemic. In spite of everything, with the hard work and dedication of Randy Huber we were fortunate to add 15 Regular Memberships, 6 Supplemental Memberships, 2 Transfers and 2 Memorial Memberships during the year. With the invaluable guidance of Wayne Brown, we learned how to use Zoom meeting technology and participate in Chapter, State and National activities. The NSSAR enabled credit for participation in virtual activities ranging from JROTC to Scouting, Americanism, Flag Recognition, Membership and Veterans. Virtual capabilities enabled us to observe the Chapter's 20 anniversary in October. Chancellor Joe Vancura's knowledge and talents were without equal in drafting the amended Constitution and By Laws, which included addition of a Responders Fund to finance special events and activities. The final document brought the Chapter up to date and into compliance with the National Society. Upon presentation to the membership the approval was unanimous and enabled the leadership to conduct virtual activities at a time when they were most needed. Vice President Stallings Howell answered the challenge of a scheduling speakers who were able to make presentations using the Zoom format. This was especially challenging early in the year when Zoom was not as widely used as it is today. Out of necessity, our January Annual Meeting will be a virtual event. I encourage all Compatriots to join in the Annual Meeting as GASSAR President Bill Dobbs administers the oath of office to the newly elected Officers. One of the greatest challenges going forward will be doing our part to support recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. We have the energy and the talent to help lead the way, and I look forward to being a part of that.

Yours in Patriotism,  
Gary J. Hoyt



## Old Allatoona Cemetery Workday (continued)

While working at the cemetery, we met local resident and Vietnam veteran Paul Johnson who provided us the following history of the cemetery:

*"The cemetery at 2450 County Line Road was the Allatoona Baptist Church Cemetery until the church closed, probably in or around 1880. After the church closed, the responsibility for the cemetery was deeded over to the House family who probably owned the land around the area of the cemetery. Sometime near the turn of the century, the land surrounding the cemetery was sold by the House family to the McClain family who lived on the west side of County Line Road. The land owned by the McClains included what is now Camden Point and included the 14 acres surrounding and behind the cemetery, all of which was farmed for many years. Around 1989-1990 the McClain family sold their land holdings to CW Matthews Contracting Co., in partnership with Traton Homes. In 1990, Traton hosted an information meeting for anybody living in the Mars Hill Community area in the Fellowship Hall of the Mars Hill Presbyterian Church. During the meeting the speaker stated that Traton's intention was to make the 14 acres around the cemetery a community center with a building for parties and a "park-like" community area. Unfortunately, right-of-way access could not be obtained to access this 14-acre area and the land sat vacant for several years. Finally, Traton and CW Matthews decided to sell the cemetery area and surrounding 14 acres. When the 14 acres were sold in 1998, it was determined the only access to the land was around the south side of the cemetery. Furthermore, Cobb County ordinance required a 50' buffer from any gravesite that no building can be within. A variance was granted with the stipulation that two parking spots be located in front of the cemetery for visitors. To determine the actual locations of the burials, the county conducted an archeological survey and located many unmarked burial sites. The 1880 deed stated the cemetery occupied one acre but when the archaeological survey was completed, several unmarked and previously unknown grave sites were discovered and cemetery boundaries were readjusted. The fence on the east side of the cemetery was placed to designate the boundary line between the cemetery, Hidden Acres of Cobb County Homeowner Association and private property."*

# Old Allatoona Cemetery Workday (continued)



Our Capt. John Collins road sign and the tree limbs we hauled out of the cemetery



DAR support from Kate Sklikas and Julia Howell



Clearing a path into the cemetery

## 2020 JROTC RECOGNITION AWARDS

The Chapter's JROTC Program felt the effects of the coronavirus in a very real way. Early planning and contact with all the JROTC Unit Commanders had established our program for 2020. As the recognition season (late April-mid May) approached it became evident wholesale changes would be made and were. The Commanders were advised that the Capt. John Collins Chapter would support their efforts in any way possible. In the meantime, four additional high schools requested recognition support, they were added to our commitment, bringing our total number of high schools to nineteen. When all was said and done, the John Collins Chapter mailed twelve recognition packages (Certificate and Bronze ROTC Medal) to the unit Commanders. There was disappointment in not being able to recognize the Cadets in person with a salute and handshake. On the other hand, there was consolation in that our usual Compatriot volunteers were not exposed to possible negative contact. Additionally, people that normally attend were exempted from exposure. The undersigned was invited and sat in on one virtual program of cadet recognition. The following listing enumerates the Cadets and their high schools that were honored with the Chapter's recognition.

Submitted by, Earl L. Cagle, Sr., JROTC Program Chair

### BRONZE MEDAL AND CERTIFICATE

<b>DATE</b>	<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b>CADET</b>
APR, 2020	Sprayberry High School	Cadet Petty Officer 1 <sup>st</sup> Class Noah Kauffman
APR, 2020	Osborne High School	Cadet CSM Leonardo Mata
MAY 6, 2020	Harrison High School	Cadet Seaman Aiden Burris
MAY 6, 2020	North Cobb High	Cadet Petty Officer 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Logan Wagner
MAY 8, 2020	Paulding County High School	Cadet CPT Samuel Farrell
MAY 13, 2020	Hillgrove High School	Cadet CPO Carroll Cochran
MAY 15, 2020	Lassiter High School	Cadet PO2 Larson Alligood
MAY 15, 2020	Kell High School	Cadet PO2 Katelynn <u>Melko</u>
MAY 15, 2020	Pope High School	Cadet PO2 Ian Theriot
MAY 21, 2020	Kennesaw Mtn. High School	Cadet Chief Petty Officer Isaiah Hancock
MAY 21, 2020	North Paulding High School	Cadet Major Reagan Coleman
MAY 21, 2020	Allatoona High School	Cadet PO1 Ryan T. Smith

The National Society  
of the  
Sons of the American Revolution®



has been awarded the

**Bronze R.O.T.C. Medal**

in recognition of outstanding leadership qualities,  
military bearing and excellence, thus exemplifying  
the high ideals and principles which motivated and  
sustained our patriot ancestors.



\_\_\_\_\_

President

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Secretary

The SAR JROTC certificate and bronze medal

## Wreaths Across America Event at Kennesaw City Cemetery

Representatives from Captain John Collins (Gary Hoyt, Dan & Brenda King) participated in a Wreaths Across America event at the historic Kennesaw City Cemetery on Saturday, Dec. 19. The event began at noon with a half hour ceremony. Afterward, participants spent nearly two hours placing wreaths on veterans' graves. Many of Kennesaw's founding fathers are buried at this nonsectarian cemetery owned by the City of Kennesaw.



## The Flag of the United States of America



“Old Glory”, “Stars and Stripes”, call her what you will. She is our emblem of freedom, born almost two and a half centuries ago. Proudly waving over the land of the free and home of the brave, lending credence to a way of life that was declared and defended by the will of her people and their sacrifices.

Today, she inspires signage, clothing, advertisements, etc., often without value to her true being. Still rising above the slings and arrows, she looks back on history, to the support of a new nation, adding unity to the formation of rag tag combatants that risked their very being to protect what she stood for. Being handed off by a wounded or dying bearer to a comrade to lead on for the cause of freedom. Waving in the breeze on a sunny day or hanging limp, dripping the tear like rain drops for those that made the ultimate sacrifice.

She has seen it all, from gun smoke shrouded ramparts to bloody beaches, student classrooms to a trifold held to the bosom of a loved one, run up a flag pole in the dawns early light, to retirement in the flames of a Boy Scout Troop fire. She has been saluted by thousands upon thousands of hands and walked on by many in protest.

For whatever you feel when you see her, you are encouraged to at least remember what she stands for.

The following are special days for her to fly:

New Year’s Day, Inauguration Day, Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday, Lincoln’s Birthday, Washington’s Birthday, Easter Sunday, Mother’s Day, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Constitution Day, Columbus Day, Navy Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, Days proclaimed by the U.S. President, Birthdays of States and State Holidays.

Submitted by Earl L. Cagle, Sr., Past President of the Capt. John Collins SAR Chapter, JROTC Chairman, DAR Liaison Chairman

## **Patriot Richard Daniel Bearden**

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Born July 6, 1760 in Granville County, Virginia, Richard Daniel Bearden was the youngest son of John Bearden and Lettice Winn. John was the son of Francis Bearden and Sarah Jane Blassingame. Lettice was the daughter of Minor Winn, Jr. and Mary Margaret O'Conner. The Winn family provided several leaders to the American Revolution, one in particular being Colonel Richard Winn, brother of Lettice and with little doubt the namesake for Richard Bearden. Winnsboro, South Carolina was named for the Winn family and became the headquarters of Lord Cornwallis in October, 1780. It was from here that Cornwallis gave his orders to Colonels Tarleton and Rawdon who were operating independently against the Patriot Armies. The Bearden family had moved to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina about 1766/7 and on to the Ninety-Six District of South Carolina about 1771/2. This area later became the Spartanburg District. In March of 1781, Richard Bearden volunteered to serve in the Continental Army as a dragoon for a term of ten months. His commanding officer was Captain William Smith, husband of Richard's sister, Mourning. Captain Smith's company joined the South Carolina Regiment of Dragoons of Colonel John Thomas and marched to a point on the Congaree River where they joined forces with Brigadier General Thomas Sumter. Sumter came to be known as the "Carolina Gamecock".

The combined forces then marched against the British held Congaree Fort. Assault on the Fort was delayed until the forces of Colonel William Washington arrived. The Continental forces were successful in taking the Fort along with a number of British prisoners. The prisoners were moved to and held in an area called Ankrums for about a month.

Sumter's forces then marched to the Ninety-Six District where they joined General Nathaniel Greene. At this time Richard came down with smallpox and was carried to the Camden Hospital, where he remained for about a month. Upon his recovery he was sent to rejoin his company on the Congaree now under the command of General Greene.

The Army marched to Orangeburg, South Carolina where the British were fortified. There was an exchange of cannonade between the two armies here. General Greene ordered the regiments of Colonel Wade Hampton and Colonel Thomas to march down the Charleston road. At the Ten Mile House the Patriots took some prisoners and continued to a place called the Quarter House, five miles from Charleston. A severe engagement occurred here with the Continental Army being victorious and wagons loaded with arms and clothing was seized.

Nelson's Ferry on the Santee River near Eutaw Springs was the next objective for the Patriots. A short march from here brought them to join forces with General Greene's Army encamped on the High Hills of the Santee. The Army rested and then marched to engage the British at Eutaw Springs on September 8, 1781. During the battle of Eutaw Springs, Richard was stationed with his Captain as an out guard and was not engaged in the heart of the battle. The engagement was an exhaustive action with casualties high on both sides. The British withdrew leaving their dead and wounded on the field. Patriots lost 251 killed, 367 wounded 60 captured and 74 missing. Casualties for the British were 85 killed, 351 wounded, 430 captured and 257 missing.

While the Battle of Eutaw Springs could conceivably be called a draw, the end result was a strategic loss for the British. This was the last major battle in South Carolina and the British had failed to stop Greene's operation. Denied any reinforcements by Greene's strategy, Lord Cornwallis surrendered the British forces at Yorktown in October, 1781.

General Sumter then marched his Army to Orangeburg where they held up until mid-winter. The Army made another march, this time to Four Holes Bridge on the Edisto River. After holding up there they marched back to Orangeburg where Richard was discharged, having served his ten months enlistment. Richard married and raised a large family, relocating several times one time to the Cherokee Nation where he is listed as having secured permission from the Native Americans to abide in their territory. Eventually returning to Georgia he died, June 21, 1861, just shy of his one hundred and first birthday. He is buried in the family cemetery in Dawson County, Georgia.

He made two applications for a Patriot pension, both of which were denied due to lack of documentation. Many years later, a well known researcher, by the name of Landrum, found documents in Columbia, South Carolina that proved Richard's service along with that of his two brothers. That is how I am able to claim Richard Bearden – Dragoon, as my sixth generation Patriot Ancestor.

*Submitted by Earl Cagle Sr., Past President*

## **My Patriot Ancestor**

If you have done research on your Patriot Ancestor, share the information with us through a short story for an upcoming edition of The Collins Dispatch.